



Metropolitan Alliance of Police

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May 11, 2021

Honorable Keith Pekau
Village of Orland Park
14700 Ravinia Avenue
Orland Park, Illinois 60462

Re: MAP and the Village of Orland Park – Police Enhancement

Mayor Pekau:

As you are aware, the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (“MAP”) is the exclusive bargaining representative on behalf of sworn police officers employed by the Village of Orland Park. MAP represents approximately 5,000 suburban and collar county, police officers, deputies, telecommunicators, dispatchers, and other public employees. MAP and its members remain committed to building trust and maintaining a working relationship with the communities we serve. The men and women of the Orland Park Police Department consistently provide professional law enforcement services for all citizens regardless of race, national origin, gender, or creed. Our membership is worthy of the trust and confidence placed in them to provide impartial service to the community, without bias or prejudice.

At the core of our shared values, MAP and the Village of Orland Park are devoted to constitutionally grounded policing and embracing strategies and technologies promoting openness and transparency. We appreciate the Village of Orland Park is a valued partner in these efforts. For example, MAP and the Orland Park Police Department Administration seamlessly reached an agreement on body-worn camera policy, training, and implementation. We congratulate the Village of Orland Park on its commitment to comprehensive in-service training for our members.

Nevertheless, MAP believes it is critical to provide local leadership with the expert practical perspective from our members. We aim to assist local leaders in correcting unanticipated consequences put forth by the legislature in its initial “reform” legislation. Improving policing is a noble endeavor. However, it is essential the Illinois Legislature correct the errors and unintended consequences of HB 3653.

MAP believes in practical and achievable solutions. By no means exhaustive, MAP has identified the following areas for amendment:

- We support CIT training. This training, like use of force training, should be mandated as part of the basic recruit training (police academy).

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- We support the addition of skilled mental health professionals to the response of mentally ill citizens in crisis. However, those professionals will likely need police on the scene to ensure the safety of the mental health professional, the individual in crisis, and the public at large.
- We oppose criminalizing the subjective belief of police failure to render aid or intercede. Instead, this is properly dealt with through police department policy and training. For example, we support the issuance of state of the art first-aid kits so “trained” police officers can administer rapid on-site care for seriously injured citizens. Overwhelmingly, our uninjured police officer members render aid to an injured citizen until EMS can respond. Also, increasing criminal liability will further diminish police recruitment and retention.
- We oppose the use of the term “necessary” as it pertains to the use of force. This ignores the practical reality of forcing a police officer to respond to a dangerous situation where consequences escalate quickly. Rather, “The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments—in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving—about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation.”
- We oppose criminalizing the subjective belief of intentional misuse of body worn cameras. Again, this is properly dealt with through department policy and training.

As previously stated, this is not an exhaustive list. Instead, this provides an initial framework and common ground to begin a dialogue for passing meaningful improvements. MAP is eager to work with Orland Park Elected Officials to construct meaningful solutions that further professionalize law enforcement, improve policing in Illinois, and build trust and confidence with the communities we serve. Now, more than ever, it is imperative Illinois gets police improvement right.

Should you wish to have a more robust discussion regarding these matters, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay healthy and safe!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. R. George', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Keith R. George